

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00780 131400Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 ACDA-10 IO-14 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /105 W
-----131405Z 048804 /46

R 131225Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5970
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS MAPUTO 0780

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, MOPS, MZ, RH
SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE SHOWS MAPAI TO JOURNALISTS

1. LOCAL DAILY NOTICIAS JUNE 11 AND 12 CARRIED FULL CENTER-
SPREADS WITH PHOTOS AND STORIES OF DAMAGE CAUSED BY RECENT
RHODESIAN RAID TO TOWN OF MAPAI. NOTICIAS JOURNALISTS ACCOM-
PANIED A NUMBER OF LOCAL AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WHO WERE GIVEN
TOUR OF AREA BY GOVERNMENT.

2. THRUST OF ARTICLES WAS THREEFOLD: TO DEMONSTRATE THAT
VIRTUALLY ENTIRE TOWN, INCLUDING NUMEROUS CIVILIAN SITES,
TOTALLY DESTROYED BY RHODESIAN INVADERS; TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT
OF THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE INCURSION; AND TO MAKE EDI-
TORIAL OBSERVATIONS.

3. FROM PHOTOS DAMAGE WAS SEVERE AND TOWN VIRTUALLY LEVELED.
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BUILDINGS, VEHICLES, RAILWAY EQUIPMENT WERE DESTROYED AND
"HUNDREDS" OF HEAD OF CATTLE WERE SLAUGHTERED. ARTICLES CON-
TENDED THAT SOME OF DAMAGE CAUSED BY 500 KILOGRAM BOMBS DROPPED
BY FOUR MIRAGE JETS WHICH PROVIDED AIR COVER FOR THE
RHODESIANS.

4. THE MILITARY ACCOUNT NOTES THAT RHODESIANS ATTACKED WITH TWO

BATTALIONS OF ABOUT 600 MEN SPEARHEADED BY SIX ARMORED CARS AND WITH MIRAGE AIR COVER; MOZAMBIQUE ARMY (FPLM) NUMERICALLY OVERWHELMED BUT FOUGHT A FIGHTING RETREAT, KILLING AT LEAST SEVEN AND LOSING ONE KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED. FPLM SQUAD ALLEGEDLY PENETRATED MAPAI AIRSTRIP AND BLEW UP A RHODESIAN DAKOTA WHICH HAD LANDED AND OFFLOADED SUPPLIES JUST PRIOR TO TAKEOFF, WHEN IT ALLEGEDLY HAD 15 SOLDIERS ON BOARD. CIVILIAN POPULATION WAS SUCCESSFULLY EVACUATED TO SAFE AREAS BY FPLM AND POPULAR MILITIA AND NO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES OCCURRED.

ARTICLE QUOTED ONE FPLM COMMANDANT AS NOTING THAT THERE WERE BLACK, PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING TROOPS WITH RHODESIANS - "DESERTERS, FORMER GES AND GEPS (PORTUGUESE COLONIAL COMMANDOS)."

ON DEPARTURE FROM MAPAI AREA MAY 31 RHODESIANS LAID SEVERAL LAND MINES WHICH WERE LIFTED BY FPLM, ALTHOUGH ONE CIVILIAN CASUALTY ENSUED FROM LAND MINE EXPLOSION.

5. ON OBSERVATIONS, THE ARTICLES CONTENDED THAT THE SMITH FORCES RECEIVED WEAPONS, POL AND OTHER SUPPORT FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND CERTAIN WESTERN POWERS. THEY PARTICULARLY NOTED THE USE OF THE 500 KILOGRAM BOMBS AND THE APPEARANCE OF MIRAGES, BOTH APPARENTLY IN USE AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE FOR THE FIRST TIME. ARTICLES CONCEDED THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES OPPOSED THE INVASION AND CALLED FOR THE BREAKING OF SMITH, BUT ARE PROMOTING "PEACEFUL TRANSITION." WHILE IT MEANS THE REMOVAL OF SMITH IT MEANS ALSO THE INSTALLATION OF A NEOCOLONIAL NEW REGIME RUN BY THE INTERNAL BOURGEOISIE. ARTICLES ALSO NOTED PRESENCE OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS IN GROUP TOURING MAPAI, AND STATED THAT "IF THEY ARE HONEST, THEY WILL NO
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LONGER WRITE ABOUT RHODESIAN TROOPS CHASING ZIMBABWE GUERRILLAS." THE RHODESIANS WOULD HAVE MUCH DIFFICULTY IN CALLING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAY LINE, THE HOSPITAL, THE SCHOOL, THE PEOPLE'S STORE, ETC. "CHASING GUERRILLAS."DE PREE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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